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Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

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USNRC

September 17, 2001 (8:59AM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Sirs:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes in the hearing procedures of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for licensing nuclear power reactors as described in the April 16, 2001, Federal Register, Volume 66.

I participated actively in the interventions in the licensing procedures for all the nuclear plants on Lake Michigan in the early 1970s. This experience taught me and many others how critical the involvement of the public is for identifying problems and securing safer construction and operations requirements for these facilities. The presence of 10 reactors at six sites on the shore of Lake Michigan remains the greatest potential threat to the drinking water supply for 10 million persons in this watershed and approximately 25 million more downstream in the Great Lakes basin.

I consider public involvement even more important for the re-licensing of plants whose design life terms have already been exceeded. Industry efforts to obtain modifications of existing safety and operating procedures must be scrutinized in processes open to the public and to the representatives of the public in government.

To close these processes to such scrutiny is a fundamental violation of the basic principles of our form of government. The proposed changes must be re-considered.

Yours truly,

  
Lee Botts

cc. Senators Lugar and Bayh, Congressman Visclosky